

Have you ever considered a career related to the law? When you think of legal careers, judges and lawyers probably come to mind first, but the Michigan court system employs people with a variety of skills, education, and experience.

Careers in the court system include:

-  Bailiff
-  Court administrator
-  Court clerk
-  Court reporter/recorder
-  District Court probation officer/agent
-  Friend of the Court investigator
-  Friend of the Court mediator
-  Judge/justice
-  Juvenile probation officer/caseworker
-  Lawyer
-  Paralegal/legal assistant

# Careers in the Court System



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## **Bailiff**

A bailiff is an officer of the court in charge of the care of prisoners during the trial and responsible for guarding the jury and preserving order in the court.



## **Court Administrator**

A professional person, usually with a bachelor's degree and court experience, or a graduate degree in law or a business-related field. This person directs the non-judicial aspects of a court, such as personnel, budgeting, and jury management.

## **Court Clerk**

The court clerk is the official custodian of all permanent records pertaining to the court's jurisdiction.

## **Court Reporter/Recorder**

A professional person with specialized training who must pass a certification examination. This person is responsible for taking down everything that is said during a court proceeding. They can record the information through a special kind of shorthand writing or computer or recording device.

## **District Court Probation Officer/Agent**

A professional person, usually with a bachelor's degree, who works directly with adults of convicted misdemeanors and who are currently on probation. They oversee the court's probationary order, conduct pre-sentence investigations, and perform other court duties.

## **Friend of the Court Investigator**

A professional staff person, with a bachelor's degree (and sometimes a master's degree), who works directly with people involved in a domestic relations matter. Their responsibilities include enforcement of custody, parenting-time, and child support orders.

## **Friend of the Court Mediator**



A professional person, usually with a master's degree, who works directly with people in a domestic relations matter. This person acts as a neutral third-party in resolving problems related to child custody or parenting-time.

## **Judge/Justice**

A judge or justice is a public official, elected to administer law in a court of justice and who is given the authority to make decisions in civil and criminal proceedings. In Michigan, to be qualified to serve as a judge of a trial court, a judge of the Court of Appeals, or a justice of the Supreme Court, a person must be licensed to practice law in Michigan and have practiced law for at least 5 years.



## **Juvenile Probation Officer/Caseworker**

A professional person, with a bachelor's degree and in-service training,

who works directly with children on probation and their families. They oversee the court's probationary order and develop case plans.

## **Lawyer**

A lawyer is a professional who has earned a college degree plus a degree from an accredited law school. A lawyer must also pass a test, called a bar exam, and be certified by the State Bar of Michigan to practice within the state. Lawyers usually specialize in a particular area of the law. Some prosecute or defend those accused of crimes (criminal law). Others represent governments, businesses, or people in matters of civil law, such as contracts, wills, environmental law, or real estate transactions. A number of lawyers become judges. Still others use their legal training in other fields, such as education or business.



## **Paralegal/Legal Assistant**

Paralegals, also called legal assistants, assist lawyers. Often, they interview clients, maintain client records, conduct legal research, and draft letters and legal documents. They usually earn a specialized degree at a community college, four-year college or university, business school, or for-profit school.